

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DEC 8 1982

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

MANITOU CAMP

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Manitou Island

NE 1, NE 1, Section 24, T52N, R3W

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Apostle Islands Natl Lakeshore

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Ashland WI

CODE

55

COUNTY

Ashland

CODE

003

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECTS

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER

1709 Jackson Street

CITY, TOWN

Omaha

VICINITY OF

STATE

NE

68102

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Registrar of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Ashland County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Ashland

STATE

WI

54806

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

List of Classified Structures

DATE

1982

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office

CITY, TOWN

Omaha

STATE

NE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>1930s</u>

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located on a small sheltered beach on the southwest end of Manitou Island, mid-range in the Apostle Islands archipelago, Lake Superior, the Manitou Camp contains five buildings and related structures, a dock, boat landing apparatus, and a small garden clearing. (See attached site map.) The first structure was built in the 1890s, while the others were added from the early 1900s to the late 1930s. All of the original structures but one are still standing, although they range in condition from fair to very deteriorated.

CABIN (HS 14-104A): This cabin, built in the 1890s, is typical of traditional northern European log construction. It is reported to have been built by four Swedish loggers. The 14- by 18-foot cabin is a one-room, one-story, single gable structure resting on a log foundation. The walls are hand-hewn cedar logs, hewn flat on both sides. Half dove-tail notching was used for a close fit between logs. Remnants of moss remain from the earliest chinking. The roof is comprised of two purlins and a ridge-pole, each approximately 6 inches in diameter, set into the gable logs. Vertical boards are nailed to these supports and covered with tar paper and wooden laths. Window and door openings were cut out of the walls and framed with wood. The interior of the cabin has been plastered and whitewashed since the 1940s. Floor boards are hand-planed cedar. There is a small earthen cellar beneath a trapdoor in the floor. Door latches, hinges, and handles are a combination of hand-carved wood, hand-forged iron, and leather. The structure needs new footings as it is slowly sinking into the ground, but the cabin has been maintained over the years and is in fair condition.

TWINE SHED (HS 14-104B): This 17- by 11-foot structure was built in the early 1900s by John Hanson, a Swedish logger who stayed on to fish when the logging was over. The simple frame structure utilizes 4-6-inch diameter poles as supporting members and a wide plank vertical siding. Hanson stabled his horse here, and the built-in manger remains. Some of Hanson's net apparatus remains inside the building also. Boards on the lake side of the structure are rotten and footings need to be replaced. Otherwise, the condition is fair.

BUNKHOUSE (HS 14-104C): This 14- by 18-foot one-room, single gable structure was built in the early 1930s by Theodore Olson, one of the two brothers who have fished out of the Manitou Camp virtually continually since the mid-1930s. Olson built the cabin on Ironwood Island, but dismantled and moved it to Manitou Island when the Ironwood land owner required him to leave. The structure serves as a bunkhouse with built-in beds. The logs are left in the round, extend at the ends, and are joined with saddle notches. They are laid close together, Scandinavian style. The gables are covered with vertical boards which show traces of their original red paint. The roofing system provides for overhead storage of running boards and other fishing gear. The roof is presently covered with tar paper. Logs on the lake side of the cabin are badly rotted, as is the floor.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES see below

BUILDER/ARCHITECT see below

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### I. INDUSTRY

Significance: The Manitou Camp is an important historical site because it is the area's only intact, unaltered site representative of a lifestyle that was basic to the development of the Old Northwest: that of the European male without family ties, who survived on the resources of the land and whose life was characterized by transiency and seasonal changes. Of the men who occupied the Manitou Camp, some logged, some fished, some did both. The camp represents a particularly rugged aspect of commercial fishing as it is practiced in this area and one that is not found in other surviving island camps, namely, winter fishing—both open water herring fishing and gill-netting through the ice.

The buildings of the Manitou Camp, which have not been structurally altered since they were constructed, contain a wealth of objects and implements remaining from the first historic occupants of the site to the most recent. Many objects related to winter fishing as it has been practiced since the nineteenth century remain in situ at the camp. Artifacts underground are expected to be numerous and in good condition because of the nature of the soils at the site. The site has not been disturbed; the historic scene is intact.

Historical context: Since the 1850s, when European settlement began in the Bayfield/Apostle Islands area, the region's economy has been largely based on resource-extractive industries—logging, brownstone mining, and fishing chief among them. Work has tended to be seasonal and sporadic, so that early immigrants to the area, unless they chose to homestead and farm, would move from one laboring job to another as work was available; and when it was not, they would fish, make barrels, fashion tools, and generally function as jacks-of-all-trades at a meager subsistence level. The twenty-two Apostle Islands, stretching north and east from the port city of Bayfield, were the locus of much of the region's industry because the raw materials were there and easy to transport by water. Consequently, by the 1890s a number of small camps or settlements had sprung up on the islands to enable individuals and families to live close to the resources and to establish a subsistence mode of living by fishing, growing fruits, and vegetables and logging or mining as the opportunity provided. A number of summer fishing communities grew up among the islands, populated by Scandinavian fishermen and their families, for whom fishing was a traditional way of life. Other settlements on the islands were inhabited by single men who had come to the north to draw a living from the undeveloped land and who erected dwellings and cleared garden plots on land

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Benson, Fred. Interview, August 1979.

The Chequamegon Bay-Apostle Islands Fishery. Edited by Donald Albrecht. (Proceedings of a symposium held at Northland College, May 5, 1975).

Erixson, Sigurd. "North-European Technique of Corner Timbering." Folkliiv, I (1937). 13-63.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.9 ACRES

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>15</u>	<u>674800</u>	<u>5202620</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is located within the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, about 13 miles off-shore from Bayfield, Wisconsin, on Manitou Island.

The nominated area lies on the southwest coast of Manitou Island. It includes 500 feet of shoreline extending 250 feet from the water's edge. Historic docks and breakwater are also included. NE 1/4, NE 1/4, Section 24, T52N, R3W.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
n/a			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
n/a		N/A	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
n/a		N/A	

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

Revised by Jill York, Historian  
National Park Service  
August 1982

NAME / TITLE Kathleen Lidfors, Historian	DATE May 1981
ORGANIZATION Apostle Islands National Lakeshore	DATE
STREET & NUMBER P. O. Box 729	TELEPHONE (715) 779-3397
CITY OR TOWN Bayfield.	STATE WI 54814

**12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION**

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES  NO  NONE   
*Richard Henry*  
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State  Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE *L. B. ...* DATE 12/7/82

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<i>Bill Grovona</i>	DATE <u>1/9/83</u>
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE
ATTEST:	DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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TWINE SHED (HS 14-104D): Theodore Olson built this twine shed in the mid-1930s. The 9-foot 6-inch by 12-foot 6-inch <sup>shed</sup> is frame-constructed of wood pole supports and wide plank horizontal siding. The building rests on 10-inch square log footings. Inside, a pole is suspended from the ceiling to hang bait nets. Many handmade items related to fishing and other aspects of the camp's life are stored in this structure. The building is in fair condition.

CABIN (HS 14-104E): This cabin was built in the late 1920s or early 1930s by Frank Childs, who fished out of the camp in winter. The one-room frame-constructed cabin is now covered with sheets of corrugated tin. The entire structure has moved several inches off its log foundation and is in a serious state of disrepair. A small shed-roof kitchen was once attached to the side of the cabin; no traces of that structure remain.

SMOKE HOUSE (B6): Built by John Hanson in the early 1930s, this structure has been used to smoke herring and venison. The roof and one wall of the structure have been removed; the rest is dilapidated.

OTHER STRUCTURES: Two wooden outhouses of unknown dates are located at opposite ends of the camp. One is badly rotted; the other is in good condition. A handmade wooden windlass (HS 14-104J) and boat skids (made by Hjalmer Olson) remain in good condition. Handmade wooden net and fish boxes, a wooden net reel, a netfork and table, tarring tank, gutting board, salt barrels, and other apparatus remain in good condition at the camp. A small portion of the old dock remains, although the log cribs are intact below the surface of the water. A herring shed once stood at the end of this dock.

CLEARING: It is thought that John Hanson planted the apple tree and dug the drainage ditches for a garden in the early 1900s. Martin Kane, a jack-of-all-trades, had a cabin in this clearing which was removed to Stockton when Kane was unable to make a living at fishing. The clearing has been used as a garden on and off over the years by fishermen living at the camp.

OBJECTS: Many objects related to the logging and fishing industries remain in situ in the Manitou Camp. This collection includes tools associated with both trades, furniture and other household items. These objects, together with the structures, give valuable insight into the lifestyle of camp residents during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

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owned by a distant timber speculator or development company. The Manitou Camp is one of these.

Some time during the 1890s, four Swedes employed in cutting cedar on the island erected a log cabin on the sheltered southwest beach. One of the men, John Hanson, stayed on to fish after the logging was done. He was joined by Gus Plud, a Frenchman, who had previously been logging on another island. Hanson occupied the camp and fished the entire year. He smoked meat, gardened, and kept a horse. In the early 1900s Martin Kane built a cabin up the hill behind the beach and tried, unsuccessfully, to survive there. Later, in the 1920s or early 1930s, a man named Frank Childs built a cabin on the beach and fished during the winter with a companion named Black Pete. When Childs left the island, Captain Bark, who piloted boats in the summer, used the cabin for winter fishing.

In the early 1930s Theodore and Hjalmer Olson, sons of a Norwegian fisherman, started coming out to the Manitou Camp to winter fish. In 1938 they bought it from the Frenzel Land Company, erected two more buildings (the bunkhouse from Ironwood Island and a new twine shed), and began to live and fish there year around. At various times they rented cabins to loggers or other fishermen, continuing the transient life-style of the camp. In 1977 the National Park Service acquired the property, but Hjalmer Olson continues to live at the camp a week or two at a time during both the summer and winter seasons.

Relation to Regional Fishing Industry: With the exception of the fur trade, the fishing industry is the oldest of the region's commercial enterprises, and the only one to continue to the present day. Island fish camps have played a major role in the operation of the industry since the 1830s, when the American Fur Company established seasonal encampments on the island, sending a company boat around to pick up the fish and transport them to the main post at La Pointe where they would be salted and packed.

By the turn of the century, two companies, the national Booth Fisheries and the local N. F. Boutin Company operated packing houses in Bayfield and ran boats out to the island camps to pick up the area fishermen's catches. The large camps on Rocky and South Twin Islands were summer communities in which fishermen, primarily of Norwegian descent, would live and work with their families; for these men it was a matter of pride not to winter fish. However, Chippewa fishermen and others who were not part of the family fishing communities did fish in winter as a matter of economic survival or preferred life-style.

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Although for many years it was also a summer stop for the Booth boat, the Manitou camp has been a winter fishing site from its earliest days to the present. It is one of possibly two island camps from which the November-December herring run was harvested. A herring shed stood at the end of the Manitou dock which received the fish directly from the boat for cleaning and salting; the herring were packed in barrels on the premises and then brought to Bayfield. Once the lake froze over, the fishermen would go out on the ice by dogsled, carrying nets and other gear needed to fish through the ice. Through a complicated system of suspending nets on lines run under the ice by poles, gill nets were set and pulled out a day or two later to harvest the whitefish and lake trout.

A wooden fish sled made by John Hanson in the early 1900s remains in the fish camp along with other early implements of the winter fishing business. The objects stored in the buildings of the Manitou Camp contribute significantly to the historic scene. They create a continuum through time from the early items hand-crafted of natural materials to recent mass-produced forms of the same objects. For a few fishermen in the area, the winter fishing which began at this camp eighty or more years ago continues, with little modification in methods, to date.

## II. ARCHITECTURE

Significance: Two of the structures in the Manitou Camp are significant as representatives of traditions in vernacular architecture which date back to the Middle Ages in northern Europe and which were once common, but are increasingly more rare in upper Wisconsin.

The structures in the camp range from approximately forty-five to ninety years old, and, together, comprise the only remaining intact and unaltered example of the working camps which dotted the landscape in the early period of the region's development.

Explanation: The log cabin built ca. 1890 is typical of northern European construction in the double-faced hewing, half dove-tail notches, close fit of the logs, chamfered edges and moss chinking, as well as earthen cellar beneath the plank floor. There is a major Finnish settlement in the area, and a number of Swede-Finns are known to have worked in the logging camps and fisheries. There was also a large influx of Norwegian fishermen in the late 1800s. This style of log building was common to the area, especially among the Finns, and some examples remain on the Bayfield peninsula, although most have been considerably altered. The Manitou cabin is the only example of this style on the Apostle Islands or within the National Lakeshore.

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The bunkhouse built by Theodore Olson, though it is just under fifty years old, represents the Scandinavian round log style with closely laid logs that extend beyond the notches, gables covered with vertical boards, and door and window openings cut out of the walls, then framed. Although this style, too, was common at one time, very few structures remain within the area. This is the only example within the National Lakeshore.

Note: It should be noted that two properties related to the area's early twentieth century fishing industry are currently included on the National Register.

The Hadland Fishing Camp on Rocky Island (Ashland County) contains several fishing structures built between 1920 and 1938. The property was accepted to the Register on August 18, 1977.

The Hokenson Fishing Dock near Russell (Bayfield County) includes the dock and related structures built between 1927 and 1931. It was accepted to the National Register on June 18, 1976.

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Knight, Eleanor. Bicentennial articles. Bayfield County Press, June 1953 - September 1958.

Mercer, Henry C. The Origin of Log Houses in the United States. Doylestown, Penna.: The Bucks County Historical Society, 1976.

Olson, Hjalmer. Interview. July 1980

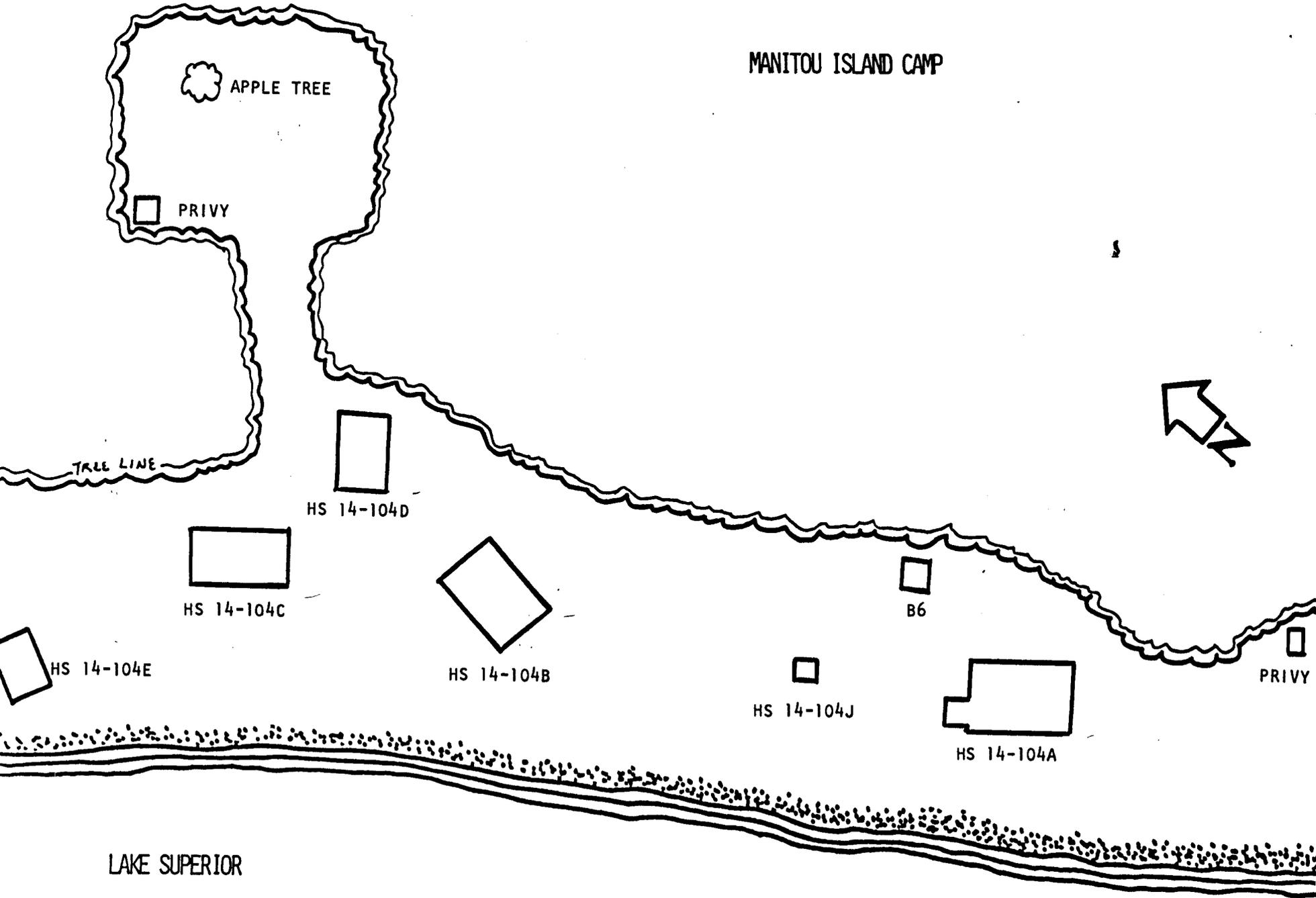
Perrin, Richard W. E. The Architecture of Wisconsin. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1967.

Ross, Hamilton Nelson. La Pointe: Village Outpost. Ann Arbor, Mich.: Edwards Bros., Inc., 1960.

Shurtleff, Henry C. The Origin of Log Houses in the United States. Gloucester, Mass.: Peter Smith, 1967.

Wicksten, Lloyd. Interview. March 1979.

MANITOU ISLAND CAMP



NOT TO SCALE